
Introduced by Senator Yee

March 13, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 73—Relative to school districts.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 73, as introduced, Yee. Child sexual abuse curriculum.

This measure would declare that the Legislature encourages school districts to include instruction related to child sexual abuse in their curriculum in order to help pupils understand the difference between appropriate and inappropriate conduct in situations where child sexual abuse could occur, and to provide pupils with resources on how to handle these potentially dangerous situations.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Child sexual abuse has become the subject of great
2 community concern and the focus of many legislative and
3 professional initiatives, as evidenced by the expanding body of
4 literature on sexual abuse, public declarations by adult survivors,
5 and increased media coverage of sexual abuse issues; and
6 WHEREAS, Child sexual abuse has been reported up to 80,000
7 times a year, but the number of unreported instances is far greater
8 because the children are afraid to tell anyone what has happened,
9 and the legal procedure for validating an episode is difficult; and
10 WHEREAS, Child sexual abuse can take place within the home,
11 by a parent, stepparent, sibling, or other relative, as well as outside
12 of the home by a friend, neighbor, child care person, teacher, or
13 stranger; and
14 WHEREAS, A child five years of age or older who knows and
15 cares for the abuser often becomes trapped between affection or

1 loyalty towards the abuser and the sense that the sexual activities
2 are terribly wrong. If the child attempts to break away from the
3 sexual relationship, the abuser may threaten the child with violence
4 or loss of love, and when the sexual abuse occurs within the family,
5 the child may fear anger, jealousy, the shame of other family
6 members, or that the family will break up if the secret is told; and

7 WHEREAS, The first indicators of sexual abuse may not be
8 physical, but rather behavioral changes or abnormalities. Often
9 there are no obvious external signs of child sexual abuse, and many
10 signs can only be detected through a physical examination by a
11 physician; and

12 WHEREAS, A child is not psychologically prepared to cope
13 with repeated sexual stimulation, and can develop a variety of
14 distressing feelings, thoughts, and behaviors resulting from the
15 inability to cope with the overstimulation; and

16 WHEREAS, The effects of sexual abuse extend far beyond
17 childhood, since a child who is the victim of prolonged sexual
18 abuse usually develops low self-esteem and a feeling of
19 worthlessness, and may become withdrawn and mistrustful of
20 adults; and

21 WHEREAS, Many sexually abused children have difficulty
22 relating to others except on sexual terms, may themselves become
23 child abusers or have other serious problems when they reach
24 adulthood, and often develop an abnormal or distorted view of sex
25 that can lead to difficulty with intimate relationships later in life;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, If childhood sexual abuse is not treated, long-term
28 symptoms can go on through adulthood, including, but not limited
29 to, post traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression and thoughts
30 of suicide, sexual anxiety and disorders, low self-esteem, and
31 unhealthy behaviors such as alcohol, drug, self-harm, or eating
32 problems; and

33 WHEREAS, Sexually abused children and their families need
34 immediate professional evaluation and treatment in order to help
35 the abused children regain a sense of self-esteem, cope with
36 feelings of guilt about the abuse, and begin the process of
37 overcoming the trauma; now, therefore, be it

38 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
39 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby encourages school
40 districts to include instruction related to child sexual abuse in their

1 curriculum in order to help pupils understand the difference
2 between appropriate and inappropriate conduct in situations where
3 child sexual abuse could occur, and to provide pupils with
4 resources on how to handle these potentially dangerous situations;
5 and be it further

6 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
7 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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10 CORRECTIONS:

11 Text—Page 3.
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